

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**FREDERICK LASHAWN VANCE**

**PLAINTIFF**

**VS.**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:12CV142-HTW-LRA**

**SGT. GREEN, ET AL**

**DEFENDANTS**

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION  
OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Frederick Lashawn Vance [hereinafter “Plaintiff”] filed a Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 on August 30, 2012, naming a “Sgt. Green” and a “Lt. Coleman,” along with John Does, as Defendants. Process was issued for these persons, and the United States Marshals Service attempted to serve them at the East Mississippi Correctional Facility in Meridian, Mississippi. The summonses were returned unexecuted on November 16, 2012, with the notation that these individuals had not been employed at the facility for approximately six months.

On July 19, 2013, the undersigned entered an Order directing Plaintiff to provide a current address for the named Defendants by August 30, 2013, in order that service of process could be executed. Alternatively, he was directed to show cause as to why his Complaint should not be dismissed due to his failure to cause service to be made on these Defendants. Plaintiff has not responded to that Order, and the undersigned presumes that he no longer wishes to proceed with this lawsuit.

It is the opinion of the undersigned that this case should be dismissed *sua sponte* for Plaintiff's failure to prosecute his case by not having caused process to be served within 120 days after filing the Complaint and by not having complied with the Court's July 19, 2013, Order, ECF No. 16.

FED.R.CIV.P.4(m) provides as follows:

**(m) Time Limit for Service.** If a defendant is not served within 120 days after the complaint is filed, the court— on motion or on its own after notice to the plaintiff--- must dismiss the action without prejudice against that defendant or order that service be made within a specified time. But if the plaintiff shows good cause for the failure, the court must extend the time for service for an appropriate period....

The time period for serving process originally expired on or about February 2, 2013, 120 days after the United States Marshal was directed to serve the Complaint. Even using the date the summonses were returned unexecuted, Plaintiff still should have caused process to be served on or before March 19, 2013. The Court has not previously dismissed the case because prisoner plaintiffs are given great latitude in effecting process due to their incarceration. However, Plaintiff has not responded to the Court's July 19, 2013, and the Court must presume that he does not wish to proceed.

It is the opinion of the undersigned that this case should be dismissed without prejudice due to Plaintiff's failure to have process served and by his failure to abide by the Order of this Court.

This Court has the authority to dismiss an action for failure of a Plaintiff to prosecute or to comply with any order of the Court both under FED. R. CIV. P. 41(b) and under its

inherent authority. *See McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835 F.2d 1126 (5th Cir. 1988); *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 630-631 (1962). The Court must be able to clear its calendars of cases that remain dormant because of the inaction or dilatoriness of the parties seeking relief, so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases. Such a sanction is necessary in order to prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases and to avoid congestion in the calendars of the court. *Link, supra*, 370 U.S. at 630. The actions of Plaintiff also prejudice the rights of Defendants to promptly and fully defend the claims made against them.

For these reasons, it is the opinion of the undersigned that the Complaint filed by Plaintiff should be dismissed without prejudice pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 4(m) and FED. R. CIV. P. 41(b), should he not object to this Report and Recommendation within fourteen days and show good cause as to why his case should not be dismissed.

The parties are hereby notified that failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained within this report and recommendation within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy shall bar that party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the unobjected-to proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the District Court. 28 U.S.C. § 636; Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); *Douglass v. United Services Auto. Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428-29 (5th Cir. 1996).

Respectfully submitted, this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 2013.

S/ Linda R. Anderson  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE